

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 43 remain in this application. Claims 1-43 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blowers et al (6,298,474) ("Blowers"), in view of Kiraly et al (6,088,731) ("Kiraly").

Regarding claim 1, Blowers fails to show essential aspects of amended claim 1, e.g., "a user interface presented by a web browser". Blowers is entirely silent on using a web browser for any purpose, even though web browsers were common as of the filing date of Blowers, i.e., April 30, 1999. In fact, Blowers teaches away from using a web browser as a graphical user interface (GUI), instead using different graphical user interfaces, as shown in Figs. 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, for example. Blowers mentions an "Explorer-type interface" in col. 12, lines 8 and 9, teaching away from a web browser, instead using an interface that is clearly different from a web browser.

Further, Blowers fails to recognize either the utility or the role that a web browser can play in facilitating machine vision. By contrast, Applicants' claimed invention recognizes the enormous utility of using a browser to facilitate communication over a network among the various elements of a machine vision system. For example, Applicant's amended claim 1 requires that a web browser be used to select "a machine vision tool on a remote computing platform accessible via the network". Amended claim 1 also requires the web browser for selecting "machine vision tool training parameter information". Further, amended claim 1 requires the web browser for commanding "the remote computing

platform to train the machine vision tool using the selected machine vision tool training parameter information". Blowers does not teach, suggest, or motivate **any** of these essential aspects of amended claim 1.

Blowers also fails to teach another essential aspect of amended claim 1, i.e., "a method for **remotely** using a machine vision tool via a **network**". In fact, Blowers teaches away from **remotely** using a machine vision tool, instead teaching the usual essentially **local** vision system architecture as shown in Fig. 2. Blowers Fig. 2 is silent on a network, instead showing a **local** and internal system bus for interactions among a vision tool running on a host computer processor 28, an image digitizer/ frame grabber 22 with cameras 24, and an I/O unit 30. There is no discussion in Blowers of how **remote** use of a machine vision tool could be accomplished, or why one would want to accomplish such remote usage.

The Examiner admits that Blowers does "not show the interface being a web browser", but points out that Blowers shows 'effective communication for training and collecting information to a separate interface at col. 13, lines 3-10. However, at col. 13, lines 3-10, Blowers teaches that "the interactive tree view/COM environment can work without the 'optional interfaces'. By contrast, Applicants' invention requires a web browser as a user interface, as made more clear in all the claims amended herein.

The Examiner also asserts that Kiraly et al. provide the web browser interface that Blowers lacks. Kiraly is silent on any mention of machine vision applications of a web browser, or how the internet can be applied to machine

vision. Further, Blowers is silent on any mention of a web browser, or a network. There is no suggestion to combine these references in either reference to obtain the invention as claimed in the amended claims provided.

Further, combining Blowers with Kiraly would not result in Applicants' invention, as claimed in the amended claims herein. The elements of amended claim 1, for example, are missing from both Blowers and Kiraly. Combining them to obtain Applicants' invention is neither obvious nor useful.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) over Blowers and Kiraly is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 2, since claim 2 depends from claim 1, herein deemed to be allowable, claim 2 is also deemed to be allowable for analogous reasons. In particular, Applicants' invention requires that selecting of the machine vision tool training parameter information be performed via a web browser over a network. By contrast, Blowers is silent on both web browsers and networks. Thus, the rejection of claim 2 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 3, Blowers is silent on the requirements of amended claim 3. In particular, Blowers is silent on "an image communications device on a second remote computing platform accessible via the network". Blowers is also silent on sending "the image via the network to the machine vision tool on the remote computing platform". Further, claim 3 is dependent upon amended claim 1, which is deemed herein to be allowable. Consequently, claim 3 is deemed to be allowable.

Regarding claim 4, amended claim 4 requires "the image acquiring device being connected to an image communications device on a second remote computing platform accessible via the network". Blowers is silent on anything even close to this, and further depends from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 4 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 5, as amended, Blowers lacks the architecture having a "remote computing platform", a "local computing platform", and an "image communications device", all connected to a network. Consequently, Blowers lacks all four elements of claim 5. Moreover, claim 5 depends on the allowable amended claim 1. Thus, claim 5 is also deemed to be allowable, and the rejection of claim 5 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 6, Blowers lacks the architecture depicted in Fig. 1 of Applicants' disclosure, and clearly set forth in amended claims 1 and 6. Moreover, claim 6 depends from allowable claims 1 and 3. Thus, the rejection of claim 6 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 7, Blowers lacks the basic architecture depicted in Fig. 1 of the disclosure, and so also lacks each element of amended claim 7, such as "a web browser running on a local computing platform connected to the network". Kiraly et al fails to teach, suggest, or motivate the architecture shown in Fig. 1. Thus, combining these references does not result in Applicants' invention. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 103(a) is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 8, since this claim depends upon allowable claim 7, it too is deemed to be allowable.

Regarding claim 9, since Blowers lacks a remote computing platform that can be reached via a network, and since amended claim 9 depends from allowable amended claim 1, the rejection of claim 9 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 10, regardless of whether it would have been obvious to employ DXF files with AutoCAD data, Blowers is silent on the essential "remote computing platform reachable via the network, as required by amended claim 9. Since claim 10 depends from allowable claim 9, claim 10 is also deemed to be allowable.

Regarding claim 11, amended claim 11 requires that the machine vision tool reside on the remote computing platform. Since Blowers is silent on a remote computing platform, and since claim 11 depends from amended claim 1, deemed allowable, the rejection of claim 11 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 12 and 13, these claims require the architecture of Fig. 1, showing a remote and local computing platform in communication via a network. Further, these claims each depend from allowable amended claim 11. Thus, the rejection of claims 12 and 13 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 14-17, the rejection of these claims is overcome for analogous reasons set forth above.

Regarding claim 18, this claim requires the architecture of Fig. 1, showing a remote and local computing platform in communication via a network. Further,

this claim depends from allowable amended claim 3. Thus, the rejection of claim 18 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 19-27, the rejection of these claims is overcome for analogous reasons set forth above.

Regarding claims 28-31, these claims require the architecture of Fig. 1, showing a remote and local computing platform in communication via a network. Further, these claims each depend from allowable amended claim 27. Thus, the rejection of claims 28-31 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 32-38, the rejection of these claims is overcome for analogous reasons set forth above.

Regarding claim 39, this claim depends from allowable amended claim 1. Consequently, this claim is also deemed to be allowable.

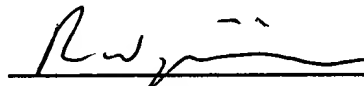
Regarding claims 40-43, these claims depend from amended allowable claims 1 and 3, each of which is supported by disclosure of the architecture of Fig. 1 of the specification. As asserted above, there is no suggestion to combine the cited references, and even if one did combine them, they do not teach the invention as set forth in amended claims 1 and 3. Thus, the rejection of claims 40-43 is deemed to be overcome.

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Accordingly, Applicants assert that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to phone the undersigned attorney to further the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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